

**Amendments to the specification**

Please amend paragraph 0012 on page 3 of the application as follows:

--FIGS. 1-5 illustrate an anchor 10 according to one embodiment of the present invention. The anchor 10 includes a ring-shaped bar 12, a stem 14 and a foot 16. The bar 12 includes a first end 18 positioned adjacent the stem 14, and a second end 20 positioned adjacent the stem 14, opposite the first end 18. The bar 12 further includes an intermediate portion 22 which has a cross-sectional width 92, the intermediate portion 22 being ~~which~~ is curved to at least partially define an aperture 24. The aperture 24 can be formed in the anchor 10 during manufacturing of the anchor 10 (e.g., during forging or casting of the anchor 10).--

Please amend paragraph 0013 on page 3 of the application as follows:

--The bar 12 further includes a first flat side 26 and a second flat side 28, each of the first and second flat sides 26 and 28 being oriented substantially vertically and formed in an outer portion of the bar 12 (i.e., opposite an inner portion of the bar 12 that defines the aperture 24). Each of the flat sides have a width 90. The bar further includes a first indentation 30 positioned opposite the first flat side 26 of the bar 12, facing the aperture 24. The bar further includes a second indentation 32 positioned opposite the second flat side 28 of the bar 12, facing the aperture 24.--

Please amend paragraph 0018 found on page 4 of the application as follows:

-- As best illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the aperture 24 has a generally round shape that is further defined by the first indentation 30 having an upward sloping section 80 and a downward sloping section 82 and the second indentation 32 having an upward sloping section 84 and a downward sloping section 86. The aperture 24 can have any shape necessary, and the shape of the aperture 24 can be at least partially determined by the structure of the lifting hardware used to engage the anchor 10 via the aperture 24. As further illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the aperture 24 is at least partially defined by the upper end 34 of the stem 14. This need not be the case. That is, the aperture 24 can be completely defined by the bar 12. As best illustrated in FIG. 2, the aperture 24 is rounded adjacent the intermediate portion 22 of the bar, and substantially flat adjacent the upper end 34 of the stem 14. --

Please amend paragraph 0025 found on page 6 of the application as follows:

-- A "shear plate aperture" as used herein and in the appended claims can comprise an aperture that allows a shear plate to be positioned within the shear plate aperture of the anchor 10 to increase the shear resistance between the anchor 10 and concrete in which the anchor 10 is embedded (e.g., during lifting). By forming a shear plate aperture in the anchor 10, it is not necessary to strongly weld a shear-plate to the anchor 10 during manufacturing of the anchor 10 (e.g., during forging of the anchor 10). That is, the shear plate aperture can be adapted to allow at least one shear plate to be positioned (e.g., by sliding) within the shear plate aperture. The shear plate(s) can then optionally be secured in place. For example, the shear plate(s) can be secured within the shear plate aperture by securing with a fastener (e.g., one or more nails, screws, tacks, staples, bolts, etc.), by welding (e.g., by tack welding, etc.), soldering, by a press-fit engagement, by a snap-fit engagement, or by adhering the shear plate(s) within the shear plate aperture with a variety of adhesives known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The shear plate(s) can be coupled to the anchor 10 within the shear plate aperture during manufacturing of the anchor 10 or prior to pouring the concrete in which the anchor 10 is embedded.--